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Oracle, The, 1931-1941

Student Newspapers

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Winter 12-18-1931

## The Oracle 12/18/1931

Gorham Normal School

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**DR. RUSSELL ATTENDS  
WESLEYAN CENTENNIAL**

Dr. Walter E. Russell, an alumnus of Wesleyan University, attended the Centennial held by that school on October 10-11-12. Two thousand alumni were present and the outstanding feature on the program was the christening of the new Alumni Athletic Building. Two banquets were given as part of the ceremony. One, the Alumni Banquet, was attended by eighteen hundred Alumni members while the Centennial Banquet itself was attended by twenty-five hundred graduates and students.

Among the honor guests present from Maine were President Kenneth M. Sills of Bowdoin, President Clifton Gray of Bates, President Franklin Johnson of Colby, and Professor Chase of the University of Maine. The Pres. of Yale, Harvard, Dartmouth, and Columbia, were also honor guests and there were representatives from twenty other colleges and universities.

Some of the outstanding speakers on the program were President Lowell of Harvard, President Hopkins of Dartmouth, Owen D. Young, Premiere Bennet of Canada, George E. Vincent, Ex. President of the Rockefeller Foundation, and Willen DeSepper, a noted Astronomer of Holland.

**NEW COURSE OF STUDY INTRODUCED IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

The state of Maine elementary school course of study has recently been revised to meet more nearly the needs of our present school system. The work was done by committees appointed by Commissioner Packard. Each committee consisted of a superintendent of schools, a class room teacher and a normal school teacher. There were eight committees, namely; Geography, Reading and Spelling, History and Civics, Arithmetic, Physiology and Hygiene, Elementary Science, Music, and English.

Miss Mary L. Hastings, Director of Training at Gorham Normal was a member of the English Committee.

After the committee had completed its work the course was unified and co-ordinated by the faculty of the elementary divisions of New York University. Dr. Robert K. Speer being the head of this department.

**OUTDOOR CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS**

At the first meeting of the Outdoor Club, officials for the coming year were elected. Sophie Tarr, president; J. Langdon, Vice President; Helen Emery, Sec.; and Edna

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**MAINE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
HOLDS SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION****DR. SUHRIE GUEST OF G.N.S.**

Dr. Ambrose L. Suhrie, Dean of Teachers, New York University, with Deputy Commissioner of Education Roderick was the guest of Gorham Normal School in October.

A special assembly was held in the afternoon when Dr. Suhrie and Deputy Commissioner Roderick briefly addressed the faculty and student body.

The program was in charge of Marjorie Moody, President of the Civic Committee, and music was furnished by the Girls' Glee Club.

Mr. Roderick spoke of the transforming influence which education has had on the world, giving beautifully-worded illustrations.

Dr. Suhrie's address urged prospective teachers to develop the act of cooperation which he defined as "so to conduct yourself that others can work with you." He further implored them to cooperate with the child to help him fulfill his individual plans, ideas and visions.

After the close of the assembly Dr. Suhrie conferred with members of the Civic Committee and with the House Committee. Questions of vital importance to the welfare of the school were discussed and much helpful suggestion given.

**GIRLS' GLEE CLUB MEMBERS**

The following girls were chosen to be members of the Glee Club this year.

Rose Doyle	Eleanor Brown
Jeannette Tapley	Madelyn Swett
Mary Tapley	Carolyn Kimball
Marilyn Hooper	Constance Smith
Doris Coltart	Margaret Cates
Dorothy Stevens	Florence Nunms
Dorothy Hawbotl	Hester Mckeen
Charlotte Mitchell	Edythe Libby
Leon Rossa	Marjorie Wilson
Alma Peters	Ruth Huston
Dorothy Rawnsley	Alberta VanHorn
Doris Marr	Barjorie Austin
Muriel Bagnell	Marbara Hurd
Lelia Libby	Elizabeth Knight
Dorothy Flag	Merna Small
Pilma Hyman	Corrine Waltz
Helen Bedell	Mildred Hamor
Lorraine Warman	Dorothy Littlefield
Madeline Ross	Elizabeth Haines
Shirley Snow	Virginia Pennell
Phylis Leslie	Ruth McGee
Gretchen Waltz	Dorothy Young
Arleen Watson	Margaret Ross
Helen Abbott	Dorothy Murphy
Lettie Day	Margaret Palladino
Kathryn Groezinger	

**DR. STEFANSSON SPEAKS**

The largest annual convention of the Maine Teachers' Association ever held in the state, observed in Portland, Oct. 28, 29 and 30, was thronged with some seven thousand teachers and educators, of which a goodly percentage were Gorham Normal School students and alumni.

The general sessions were favored with many distinguished speakers, including Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, world-renowned Arctic explorer and scientist, who has spent years in the unknown North; Miss Florence Hale of Maine, President of the National Education Association; Governor William Tudor Gardiner; Dr. Bertram E. Packard, State Commissioner of Education, and Dr. James G. McConaughy, President of Wesleyan University. Numerous other fine speakers appeared on the departmental programs.

Social activities were as usual an important feature. The convention opened Wednesday, Oct. 28, with a reception in honor of Miss Florence Hale. Reunions were held by the five Maine Normal Schools and four Maine colleges. There were also banquets, dinners, and breakfasts under the auspices of several associations and clubs.

A concert was given on Friday evening Oct. 30, by the Maine All State School Orchestra. This orchestra, composed of 125 students from all sections of the state, furnished perhaps the most finished musical program presented hitherto by a school organization at conventions of the Maine Teachers' Association.

The meetings and discussions proved a source of profit and inspiration to the assembled delegates, who showed by their presence a willingness to exchange ideas which most surely will result in broadening the scope of their possible achievements. Opportunities were afforded to discuss many current problems, and suggestions for their possible solution.

**MAINE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
WELFARE COMMITTEE PRESENTS  
NEW CODES OF ETHICS**

The Maine Teachers' Association Welfare Committee of which Dean Nellie W. Jordan was a member spent considerable time and effort on the new Code of Ethics for teachers which was presented at the

*Continued on page 4, column 2*



## The Oracle

## STAFF FOR 1931-32

MARY D. STEVENS	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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LUCIA A. HINCKLEY	SECOND ASSISTANT
DONALD S. DOW	BUSINESS MANAGER
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E. ALTHEA DAY	FUN AND FEATURES
GEORGE W. WAKEFIELD	LITERARY DEPT.
CHARLES CRAGIN	ATHELETICS
RAY N. EMERY	ALUMNI AND EXCHANGE

## REPORTERS

## NEWS

JOSEPHINE SAWYER	MARY GREELY
ELIZABETH GILES	MILDRED R. JOHNSON
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ALBERTA STROUT	EDYTHE M. LIBBY
LITERARY DEPT.	

LEONA B. ROSS	HELEN R. STERLING
ANNA E. HAMLIN	RUTH BEAL

## ATHELETICS

SOPHIE TARR	EDITH M. SAWYER
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WILLIAM L. RANSOM
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## ALUMNI AND EXCHANGES

MARY M. MCGURN	MARGARET E. MACDONALD
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## FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

There is no individual freedom in a democracy. When the government is "of the people, by the people, for the people" it is obvious that all the phases of living are so inter-dependent and complex that no one person or small group may exist except for the benefit of the whole.

It is a pleasant theory that we have freedom of speech. There is a comparative freedom of speech in a democracy but it extends only as far as the limits of good taste and justice. It does sometimes appear that all justice is not in good taste! Only when it will serve as a challenge to secure a worthwhile result is vehement speech a laudable medium of self-expression.

Since we are taught that God gave man a soul, it seems only right that each individual should be free to live in the manner which shall allow that soul to develop as a source of personal inspiration; a fount from which to draw the sublimation that enables one to meet the storms of adversity. Again the logical conclusion proves to be wrong. It is only by giving bits of our own souls and accepting in return bits from those on whom we depend for our existence, that the freedom of life is perpetuated. There is no such institution as "the right to live our own lives in our own way." We must await a future sphere to enjoy our own souls as a beautiful entity.

A school is a small democracy. In it are the same relations of dependence and the same lack of freedom that is to be found in a larger field of existence. There can be no indi-

vidual freedom, either on the part of teacher or student. Just as there must be a close cooperation between citizen and official to preserve the success and integrity of a nation and its people, so must teachers and students work together in sympathy and understanding.

Freedom for the individual does not exist. It is only when he becomes a part of the unified action of a group, working for the welfare of all, that one most nearly approaches his yearning for self-expression. Life is far too complex for an isolated individual to survive.

## APPLE TREES

What is there about apple trees  
That appeals to me, I wonder?  
Poor little dwarfed squatty things,  
So low on the ground, looking around and  
above,  
To the pines and the elms, so stately and  
brave,  
Tall brothers, independent and free;  
While the poor little apple tree  
Stays close to Earth,  
As a child to mother's knee.

Curly-headed, smiling in the sunshine,  
Little arms so wide out-stretched,  
As if so greedy for embracing,  
Reaching for the sun's caress.  
Inviting with sweet fragrance,  
And obliging little boughs—  
"Come and live with me, every little bird I  
see"

Just a baby apple tree,  
Contented just to be small,  
And smiling, and loving, and happy,  
And cheery and cozy, that's all.

## GRANDMA

Years before Alton's grandmother was a grandmother at all, she had found in life only a tragic boredom, a boredom which left on her face that emptiness which is so often seen on the faces of those who have discovered the futility of existence.

When Alton came into the world, his grandmother was amazed and terrified. Plans for that first voyage of his had been made by no one; and like most unexpected visitors, he was unwelcome. Alton's mother died soon after his birth, and his grandmother, who was almost penniless, took him under her roof and proceeded to bring him up.

It was a struggle, Alton's grandmother fought starvation continually. But Alton was an unusual child and grew rapidly. He was so intelligent he amazed his grandmother and she would exclaim, "How you do talk! There ain't nothing you don't know." She grew to love him, a thing which surprised her immensely, and she became exceedingly jealous of him. Once she told him not to play with a friend he had found somewhere and, filled with rage, Alton had answered, "Oh, shut up. I hate you!" She bit her lip and said nothing.

That night, when Alton got up to look at the fishing boats in the harbor, he noticed the candle burning in his grandmother's room. He tiptoed in and found her, still dressed, crying softly. It made him feel guilty and remorseful; and frightened by these strange, disturbing feelings, he crept back to bed.

His grandmother ate little. She gave nearly all she had to him. She said she was never hungry. He ate quickly, but once in a while remembered to leave a little, so that she could have it when he was gone.

Once a neighbor brought in a long piece of old, black silk that sent his grandmother into ecstasies at the thought of having a silk dress. She made plans for it for weeks. She fingered the silk lovingly, caressing its softness. She draped it about her toil worn shoulders. She pictured herself in a long silk dress going to church. She laughed to herself at the happy thought. She began to work on it. One day she saw Alton walking with another boy and noticed that Alton's blouse looked shabby. He needed a new one. A week later Alton was surprised to find two black silk shirts on his bed. His grandmother was behind the door to see his happiness at the discovery. They looked queer to Alton and he blushed with shame as he walked down the street with a black shirt shining in the sun.

Alton was so clever his grandmother wanted him to go to college. She began hoarding every cent for him to go. Alton sometimes noticed things she valued highly suddenly gone from their usual places and wondered what had happened to them. She sold a huge clock, her wedding present, because she was tired of it.

At last the day came when Alton was to go to school. His grandmother had scraped together enough for him to go to the least expensive school she could find. She grew panic-stricken, however, when she thought of their separation. She had cried stealthily for the whole week before this day. Her hand shook so that she had dropped a favorite flower pot and broken it, once when she had suddenly remembered she was to be alone. She felt Alton was greatly disturbed, too. She dare not show her feelings lest the departure be too difficult for him.

Other boys were going, too. Four of them were to leave together in a carriage. Alton's grandmother accompanied him to the place where the carriage was to wait. She took his hand but dared to say nothing lest tears come. Alton was very much excited.

"Be good", she whispered.

Alton looked at her and smiled.

"It'll be so strange", he said.

All the boys arrived and the carriage started. Alton's grandmother felt as if her life were creeping away from her. She was numb with sorrow, and loneliness fell upon her like a cloud as she watched the only thing she loved in the world drawn away in that carriage. She stumbled when she tried to walk.

Alton was so happy with his boy friends that he forgot all about waving his hand to his grandmother until he had ridden two miles.



# ATHLETICS



## TEAM B RUNS

Team B of the cross country squad took over the Cape Elizabeth aggregation by a score of 20-42. The Capers nabbed first place, but when Emery, Day, Pratt, Cote and Frame meandered across the line abreast, all the visitors' hopes vanished.

Team B's second run was not as successful as its first venture. Greely and Windham were the opponents in this three-sided affair. Greely copped the run with 27 points. Gorham tallied 46, and Windham scored 59.

## JUNIORS THE WINNERS IN INTERCLASS SOCCER

Led by Barbara Harmon, captain, the Juniors defeated the Seniors in the interclass soccer series. Three hotly contested games were played, two of which resulted in a tie. The third game ended in a win for the Juniors, this making them the victors in the soccer series. Come on, Seniors, let's show some fight.

## MID-SENIOR TENNIS STARS CRUHS RIVALS

With the loss of but four sets, the Mid-Senior racqueteers piled up a total of 25 points in the fall tennis tournament, to place themselves far in the lead for the tennis cup. The Advanced-Seniors and Juniors divided honors more evenly for the total scores of 6½ and 9 respectively.

Undeclared players were Ray Emery and Bill Ransome (singles), Tobey, D. Bagley (doubles) of the Mid-Senior major team; Curtis of the minor team. The Junior minor doubles team, composed of Bunker and Snow was also unbeaten.

## GIRLS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HOLDS ELECTION

At the meeting of the Girls' A. A., Dorothy Dunn was elected Pres.; Ruth Cummings Vice Pres.; and Doris Marr, Sect. Marjorie Moody was chosen to represent the Advanced Seniors on the Athletic Council; Doris Coltart to represent the Seniors; and Edith Farnham the Juniors. Florence Nunns is to represent the Girls' A. A. in the Civic Committee.

## GORHAM SWAMPS FREEPORT

The Gorham harriers left the Freeport pack in a cloud of dust in the first varsity run of the season. Gorham easily took all the first places except fourth which was copped by Winslow, of Freeport. The order of finish was, Johnson, Twitchell, Smith, of Gorham; Winslow, Freeport; Storey and Winslow of Gorham; York, Camp, Bissenette, Allen, of Freeport.

## GORHAM TRIMS DEERING

Gorham hill and dalers were successful in the second run of the season by topping Deering 22-37. Twitchell crossed the tape first a few steps ahead of Bond of Deering. The order of finish was: Gorham- Twitchell 1st, Smith, 3rd, McSorley, 5th, Storey, 6th, Winslow, 7th; Deering- Bond, 2nd, Wormwell, 4th.

## HEBRON BEATEN BY GORHAM

Gorham kept its slate clean by vanquishing the Hebronites 16-47, one point short of chalking up a perfect score. It was a complete walk-away for the Gorham boys who easily took 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th places. Hebron's first man in captured 5th place but his team-mates failed to keep the pace.

## GREEN AND WHITE CLOSE YEAR WITH VICTORY AT BATES

G. N. S. cross country team completed a successful season by decisively outrunning the hitherto undefeated Bates Freshman team by a score of 23-35. Twitchell traveled the course in 17 min. 44 sec. a new record. This makes the second consecutive year in which our team has not met with a single loss.

## INTERCLASS CROSS-COUNTRY

The Mid-Senior cross country team maintained possession of the James Bailey Co. trophy with sweeping triumphs over their two rivals. The final tally; Mid-Seniors 80; Advanced Seniors 68; Juniors 18.

## ALUMNI AND EXCHANGES

### WASHINGTON NORMAL NEWS.

The football team is having quite a successful season in spite of an unusually hard schedule.

The fall tennis tournament results have raised the hopes of W. S. N. S. for a powerful varsity court squad next spring. Several men are back from last year's winning team.

## GRADS' BROADCAST

Everyone was glad to see Miss Randall back for a brief visit this fall. She teaches science in Hingham High School this year.

Miss Sylvia Brazzel is teaching French in South Portland High.

Miss Thelma Rhynesburger is Director of Music in the Junior High Schools of Reading, Mass.

Shirley Hartley is teaching in Auburn.

"Mad" Coolidge is in Boston, attending B. U. What's the matter with that football team?

"Kita" Craven is attending the Leslie School of Kindergarten.

"Lin" Porter is principal of a grammar school in Freeport.

Miss Evelyn Lovejoy holds a position in Mechanic Falls.

Gladys Foster is teaching in a Junior High School in Barre, Mass. Gladys was the Oracle's first editor-in-chief.

"Rut" Drummond is an assistant in Falmouth High School. We miss you.

Louise Marshall teaches the fifth and sixth grades in Ellsworth. Louise was our able Y.W.C.A. president last year.

Marjorie Kendall holds a position in Orrington. Are you still tickling the keys, "Marj"?

Edward Leahy is taking a special course at Bridgewater Normal. Keep up the old basketball record, "Ed".

Jane Hodges and "Polly" Poligian are teaching together in East Stoneham.

Dora Peterson and Christine Anderson are teaching in New Sweden.

Roy Salisbury has a position in Brewer High School.

"Ed" Lessard is teaching in Rumford. Here's betting you'll be aiding the baseball coach next spring, "Ed".

Evelyn Ransom has a rural school in Augusta.

Martha Jane Lund has a school in Freeport.

Fred West is teaching in Old Orchard. The Alpha Lambda Beta misses you, Fred. Elizabeth Hollis has a rural school in West Paris.

Claire Woodbury has chosen Vermont as her field of work.

Mrs. Lawrence Abbott (Florence Hart), is living in North Paris.

Marion Taylor is teaching in Everett Mass.

Mrs. Fred West (Rachel Foss) is residing in Old Orchard.



## CLASS OFFICERS

Now that the school program is running smoothly, the election of class officers has commenced. From the advanced senior class the following were elected; president, Donald Dow; vice-pres., Wallace Saunders; sec., William Plummer; treas., Margaret Ross.

The senior class elected the following; president, Thomas Abbott; vice-president, William Cragin; secretary, Vivian Scott; treasurer, Sophie Tarr; and civic committee member, Joseph Luiz.

The junior class have as their president, Victor Walker; vice-president, Daniel Snow and secretary, Virginia Brooks.

## SPEAKERS CHOSEN FOR SUPERINTENDENTS' AND PRINCIPALS' DAY PROGRAM.

At a recent meeting of the Civic Committee four students were chosen to be speakers on the program given to the Superintendents and Principals which was held on Thursday, November 19th. The four chosen were Charles Cragin, William Ransom, Arlene Kelly, and Mary Ward. Marjorie Moody, pres. of the Civic Committee, had charge of the program.

At the same meeting an Invitation Committee was appointed consisting of Chester Pratt, Chairman; Victor Walker, Doris Bryan, and Dorothy Murphy.

This feature was introduced for the first time last year and proved so successful that the Civic Committee again sponsored a similar program.

## "THE JOINER"

Are you one of the fellows who's joining the clubs,  
Join them left and right,  
But who, when asked to help a bit, says,  
"I'm sorry  
But I'm busy to-night."

Are you one of the ones who joins just because  
It goes in the Green and White?  
Don't do that, pal, join fewer clubs and be ready  
To help to-night.

## "The Grind"

Are you one of the fellows who plugs all the time  
Who studies both night and day,  
Too busy to go out for a game or walk,  
Too busy plugging away?

For a grind is as bad as a joiner, you see,  
One plays while the other works,  
So let's strive toward the goal where we're not  
not "the grind"  
And neither the fellow who shirks.

## SUNDAY MORNING

Trees and flowers waking up  
Washed and rosy and refreshed,  
Like children, turning sunny faces  
To a father's call.

The sun, like a jolly laborer, relaxed,  
Gently touches them, each one,  
And lazily smiles, in wonderment;  
Taking time from the weeks' busy grind,  
To play among his children.

No need this day to hurry,  
Or strain, or labor, or fret;  
Even the crickets are quiet;  
Birds hug their nest, insects lie still and listen;

For the Lord said,  
"Let there be rest!"

## HALLOWEEN AT G. N. S.

The annual Halloween party of the House committee was held in Corthell gymnasium Oct. 24. The decorations were attractive and original.

The "ad" guessing contest was won by Mary Hall, a junior.

After the grand march, during which the costumes were reviewed by the judges, the following short program was given:

Origin of Halloween	Doris Marr
Violin Solo	Leonard Curtis
Reading	Jean Langdon
Piano Solo	Daniel Patt
Trumpet and Clarinet Duet	
Melva Kehoe	Phyllis Marston

The prizes were awarded to Dorothy Dunn, prettiest; George Frame, most original; Frank Worcester, funniest.

Refreshments were served and dancing finished the evening.

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recent Teachers' Convention.

The study made by this Committee was supplemented by a special study made by the House Committee of Gorham Normal and by one of the classes in school management. These various groups were assisted by the National Teachers' Association which has been studying the question for the past few years.

The main points considered in formulating the code came under the following headings: Relation of teacher to pupils and community, Relation of teacher to his profession, Relation to members of the profession.

Some of the points discussed under these main topics were: Professional growth, Keeping of contracts, Cooperation with administrative officials and parents, Community activities, Salaries, Self advertising and Remuneration from pupils for teaching.

## CHATTERINGS

Babe Watson and Rose Doyle make excellent witches. They proved it to us one night. This make-up can do wonders.

D wavers between C and P.  
O D, which shall it B ?

Dot Murphey has calmed down this year. Now she is "Dad's Own Sweet Girl".

The Dramatic Club has started off with a bang. We hear that several cups were broken at the Dramatic Tea. We hope they were not exercising their speech organs unduly, a la Mad Hatter.

Everybody said the Art Hop posters were good. But what were they? This modern art does keep one hopping.

We would suggest that Mr. Woodward take over the town clock, and see if he can make a "go" of it.

East Hall looks forward to the coming of Mildred's "boy friend".

All we hear from those Juniors is "Geography Tests". They are beginning to like them evidently.

We wonder how many new words the Juniors have coined in giving our teachers their "pet" names.

Cheer up, everybody. The Juniors may not appreciate the faculty of G. N. S. at first, but "to know them is to love them."

It looks as if one or two of our young "beginning teachers" have missed their calling. Where is the nearest school for esthetic dancing, Paul?

"A tub, a tub," sang one "roomie" gleefully as she rushed into the room, "Now I can take my bath!"

"Oh," remarked ditto casually, I thought you were merely announcing yourself.

If life seems unusually hectic,  
And nothing at all seems worthwhile;  
If you're feeling sort of blue and homesick,  
Its a pretty good plan then to -- smile.

Junior (entering crowded barber shop):  
"How long will I have to wait for a shave?"  
Barber (eying him critically): "Oh, I should judge about a year."

Little drops of knowledge  
Little grains of sense,  
Makes a mighty difference  
When the tests commence.

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Delaney, Treas.

Mary Hall was chosen to represent the club in the Civic Committee.

Fourteen organized hikes are scheduled for this year. To earn a monogram, it is necessary for a member of the club to go on eight of these hikes.